

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10454 01 OF 02 130610Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 10454

EXDIS

DEPT PASS ERDA HQS WASHDC AND USERDA GERMANTOWN MARYLAND FOR INFO
FOR NYE, T; HOLBROOKE, EA; ERDA FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF U.S.-JAPAN JOINT REPROCESSING STUDY

REF: TOKYO 10003

1. SUMMARY. TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE EFFORT TO LAY OUT COSTS AND
BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE MODES OF OPERATION OF JAPAN'S TOKAI MURA
REPROCESSING PLANT CAME TO AN END ON JULY 11 IN A FLURRY OF
ACTIVITY. ACTUAL STUDY (300 PAGES OF TECHNICAL INFO PLUS
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS) WAS PUT IN FINAL FORM OVER WEEKEND.
LAST MEETING OF JOINT STUDY GROUP WAS HELD MORNING OF JULY 11,
FOLLOWED BY MEETING OF GROUP LEADERS WITH STA DIRECTOR GENERAL
UNO IN EARLY AFTERNOON AND SUBSEQUENT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
LATER IN DAY. MEDIA CONTINUED THEIR PERSISTENT COVERAGE TO
THE END. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ON-SITE PHASE OF TOKAI STUDY (REFTEL), TEAM
RETURNED TO TOKYO ON JULY 6 AND BEGAN SORTING THROUGH MASS
OF TECHNICAL DATA COLLECTED ON IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE
OPERATING MODES. DECISION WAS MADE TO PREPARE JOINT
REPORT IN ENGLISH, WITH GOJ SIDE TO HAVE SOLE RESPONSI-
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 10454 01 OF 02 130610Z

BILITY FOR MAKING AUTHENTIC JAPANESE LANGUAGE VERSION.
ALL WORKING DOCUMENTS WERE PREPARED IN ENGLISH BY
JAPANESE. BOTH SIDES SET UP WORKING SUBGROUPS ON
REPROCESSING, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
(I.E., FUEL FABRICATION, REACTORS, RESOURCES, ETC.).
DRAFTS OF SECTIONS OF REPORT WERE CONTINUOUSLY EXCHANGED.
RELATIONS AMONG TEAM MEMBERS REMAINED HARMONIOUS THROUGH-

OUT STUDY, WITH DEBATE FOCUSED MOSTLY ON WORKING OF SUMMARIES OF EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES AND OF RELATIVELY NON-TECHNICAL OVERVIEW OF ENTIRE REPORT. TOTAL STUDY REPORT EXCEEDS 300 PAGES IN LENGTH, DUE IN CONSIDERABLE PART TO JAPANESE PROVIDING WEALTH OF TECHNICAL DETAIL. FINAL VERSION OF REPORT WAS COMPLETED MORNING OF JULY 12, WITH BOTH SIDES AGREEING THAT MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF TIME TO PRODUCE A POLISHED VERSION.

3. NO REAL SURPRISES OR BREAKTHROUGHS OCCURRED AS RESULT OF INTENSIVE EXAMINATION. THE 15 OPTIONS EXAMINED, INCLUDING SCHEDULED MODE OF OPERATION AS A BASE CASE, SHOW THAT AS NON-PROLIFERATION ADVANTAGES ARE ENHANCED, COSTS OF PLANT MODIFICATION AND DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS GO UP MARKEDLY. ALL ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED WERE BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT RECEIVE PLUTONIUM FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. COST INCREASE AND TIME DELAY FOR SEVERAL OPTIONS WAS DUE MORE TO NEED FOR REVAMPING OXIDE CONVERSION FACILITIES, FUEL FABRICATION PLANTS, AND FUEL HANDLING IN TRANSPORTATION OR AT REACTORS, RATHER THAN COST OF MODIFICATION OF REPROCESSING PLANT ITSELF.

4. CONCERNING NON-PROLIFERATION ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES, REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE ADDITION OF EITHER
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 10454 01 OF 02 130610Z

URANIUM OR RADIATION EMITTERS (FISSION PRODUCTS OR COBALT-60) TO THE PLUTONIUM PRODUCT STREAM CAN ADD TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION CONSTRAINTS OF OPERATING A REPROCESSING FACILITY. THE DEGREE OF THE CONSTRAINT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE TIME REQUIRED TO REVERT THE FACILITY TO AN OPERATING MODE IN WHICH PURE PLUTONIUM IS AGAIN THE PRODUCT. THE TIME CAN VARY FROM A FEW DAYS TO SEVERAL MONTHS, WITH THE ADDITION OF URANIUM AND RADIATION EMITTERS, RESPECTIVELY. THE NON-PROLIFERATION CONSTRAINTS OF OPERATING THE PLANT IN THE AS - DESIGNED MODE ARE MINIMAL IF THE NATION DECIDES TO ABROGATE ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS.

5. TEAM LEADERS WERE CALLED TO HALF-HOUR FINAL MEETING WITH MINISTER UNO ON JULY 11. HE STATED THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE HANDED THE JOINT REPORT ON JULY 12 AND WOULD THEN PRESENT IT TO A THREE-MEMBER MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (STA, MITI, MOFA) AND THEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND FULL CABINET ON THE SAME DAY. DR. SCHEINMAN THANKED UNO FOR THE COOPERATION AND HOSPITALITY AFFORDED THE AMERICAN VISITORS AND OBSERVED THAT THE REPORT WAS INTERESTING AND ATTRACTIVE, AND WOULD FORM A SOUND BASIS ON WHICH TO

CARRY ON FURTHER POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED WOULD LEAD TO OTHER COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN THE RESOURCE FIELD. UNO RESPONDED IN KIND, SAYING THAT STUDY MARKED A NEW ENTRANCE INTO THE U.S.-JAPAN ENERGY RELATIONSHIP. HE REITERATED PRIME MINISTER'S AND GOJ'S SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES AND OFFERED USE OF TOKAI FACILITY AS MEANS OF COLLECTING INFORMATION AND DATA OF USE IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10454 02 OF 02 130649Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 10454

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6. UNO CONTINUED THE DIALOGUE BY NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THAT LDP APPEARED TO BE WINNING THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS (CONDUCTED ON 7/10) AND THAT THIS WOULD BE AN INDICATION OF SUPPORT BY THE ELECTORATE OF THE LDP'S DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. AND TO MAINTAIN A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP. HE THEN NOTED THAT DIET WILL CONVENE IN SPECIAL SESSION TOWARD END OF JULY TO SELECT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, AND THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED, THERE WAS POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD BE ASKED FOR STATEMENT ON PROGRESS OF TOKAI TALKS. HE THEREFORE WAS INTENT ON TRYING TO REACH SOLUTION TO TOKAI ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND OFFERED TWO ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PROCEED: (1) CONDUCT THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY AT WORKING LEVEL; (2) HOLD "HIGH-LEVEL" MEETING SO THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT AS TO WHAT IS TO BE DECIDED. EITHER APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOJ, HE SAID, AND HE

ASKED SCHEINMAN TO MENTION THESE ALTERNATIVES ON LATTER'S
RETURN TO U.S.

7. MEETING WITH UNO WAS FOLLOWED BY JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 100 JAPANESE AND FOREIGN REPORTERS
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 10454 02 OF 02 130649Z

AND PHOTOGRAPHERS. EFFORTS BY REPORTERS TO ELICIT
DETAILS OF STUDY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. AS CONSEQUENCE,
PRESS CONFERENCE WAS RATHER DESULTORY EXCEPT FOR
INFLAMMATORY QUESTION ASKED BY PAKISTANI REPORTER
(REPRESENTING PAKISTANI AND SAUDI ARABIAN PAPERS) AS TO
WHY U.S. CONSIDERED ITSELF TO BE MORAL POLICEMAN OF
WORLD. RESPONDENT REJECTED PREMISE OF QUESTION AND
POINTED OUT U.S. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WORLD CONSENSUS ON
NON-PROLIFERATION MEASURES. OFFICIAL JOINT PRESS STATE-
MENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.

8. COMMENT: DIRGEN UNO'S REMARKS WERE MADE IN VERY
CORDIAL TONE AND DID NOT REFLECT HIS STRONG VIEWS MADE
PRIOR TO ELECTION THAT TOKAI MURA PLANT MUST BEGIN
OPERATION BY END OF JULY. HE DID APPEAR TO BE SEEKING
SUPPORT FOR AN EARLY TRIP TO WASHINGTON BY HIM (THE
"HIGH LEVEL" MEETING). STRANGELY ENOUGH, HIS STAFF
HAD ASKED BOTH SCHEINMAN AND SCICOUNS INDEPENDENTLY
EARLIER IN DAY TO DISCOURAGE ANY ATTEMPT THAT UNO
MIGHT MAKE TO SET UP A TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN JULY,
INDICATING THAT UNO DOES NOT HAVE INTERNAL AGREEMENT ON
THIS APPROACH.

9. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN AND JAPANESE PRESS DID NOT SUCCEED
IN LEARNING DETAILS OF STUDY THROUGH FORMAL PRESS CON-
FERENCE, WE ALREADY HAVE INDICATIONS THAT BITS AND PIECES
OF STUDY ARE BEGINNING TO LEAK TO THE MEDIA. EVER SINCE
FIRST TECHNICAL RESULTS WERE PASSED TO AMERICANS TWO
WEEKS AGO, SOME JAPANESE HAVE BEEN CLAIMING THAT STUDY
WOULD SHOW THAT ANY ALTERATIONS TO TOKAI PLANT WOULD
BE TOO EXPENSIVE OR WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT JAPAN'S
NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. UNDER CONTINUING
PRESSURE OF REPORTERS, AND PERHAPS EGGED ON BY ADVOCATES,
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 10454 02 OF 02 130649Z

SOME DETAILS--POSSIBLY DISTORTED IN CONTEXT--WILL APPEAR
IN PRINT. WE HAVE URGED GOJ TO TRY TO AVOID THIS,
SINCE IT CAN ONLY ACT TO DETRIMENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

10. EMBASSY WISHES TO COMMEND IN STRONGEST TERMS THE HARD WORK OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, ITS SUCCESS IN AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFRONTATION, AND ITS FIRST-RATE REPRESENTATIONAL EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE USG. THE TECHNICAL STUDY PRODUCED IS A CREDIT TO BOTH SIDES AND MAY WELL FORM THE BASIS FOR FUTURE POLICY DETERMINATIONS ON REPROCESSING NOT LIMITED TO THE TOKAI ISSUE. END COMMENT.

MANSFIELD

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